



The Hongkong Telegraph

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FATE OF CROWDED HONGKONG

American Assessment Of Trade Ban: "Future Pretty Grim"

COMMENT

Hanoi Threat

The decision of the French administration to evacuate all non-combatants from the northern areas of Indo-China need not be interpreted as simple alarmism. It has many of the hallmarks of good commonsense. The Hanoi area is rapidly developing into a major battleground and the French are wise to get as many helpless civilians out of it as they can.

In spite of the fact that more than 150,000 French troops are bogged down in Indo-China by the feud with the Vietminhese, not even with the aid of the Vietnam forces is there sufficient manpower to patrol the Chinese Communist border or to halt the pressure in the frontier zones. It may be necessary, therefore, to abandon a substantial part of the Red River valley and the delta to set up a stronger line farther south. This manoeuvre could be seriously hampered if women and children were left behind. The situation in Indo-China parallels that in Korea, prior to last June, closely enough that there is ample reason for apprehension. The Communist-directed Vietminhese forces have been strengthened by large cadres that have been trained and re-equipped in China. The Vietminh army is no longer a group of "nationalist" guerillas fighting French "imperialism." It is a striking force that can be commanded by the Communist over-all leadership to move for the domination of the whole of Indo-China.

Moreover, it can be backed up, just as the North Koreans were supported, by a very large Chinese Communist army that can intervene if the Vietminh force cannot win out on its own.

The French, therefore, must study every defensive possibility. The terrain of Annam gives them an opportunity to hold a position south of the Red River that is topographically strong. Indo-China, like Korea, has its waist. And it is there that the real decision will be reached.

"Economic Semi-Paralysis: Semblance Of Stability"

FROM FREDERICK COOK

New York, Dec. 18.

The fate of more than 2,000,000 people living in crowded Hongkong rests to a large extent today in the hands of a 49-year-old American civil servant who, grasping a bulging briefcase, rides to his work in Washington every morning before 8 o'clock in a crowded suburban bus.

Slender, bespectacled John Burton, father of three small children, is a typical hardworking bureaucrat. He lives in a remodelled farmhouse which his wife redecorated herself to save money.

He gets to his \$3,700 a year job a few minutes before his secretary every morning and is often still there at 8 o'clock at night.

In his hands is the ponderous machinery which, as one American Government spokesman put it to me, "will decide whether Hongkong shall be allowed to continue under minimum economic standards or will be reduced to austerity."

In either case, he added, "the future for the Colony looks pretty grim."

Mr Burton is head of the export control division of Washington's vast sprawling Department of Commerce. He is the man who runs the complicated licensing system which has sprung into being as a major factor of life and death importance to millions in the Far East since the US on Dec. 3 imposed its drastic new export regulations embargoing all shipments which "might get into Communist hands."

Under this regulation Hongkong looks like being the hardest hit.

"We are not trying to put Hongkong out of business," said a Government official. "We recognise her as a British Crown Colony and we shall most certainly try and work this thing out with as little hardship as possible." But others were much more pessimistic about the future of the Colony.

POLICY DECISIONS

Since the embargo went into effect an inter-departmental committee made up of representatives of the Departments of State, Commerce, Defence and Agriculture have been in almost continual session working out policy details of what can and what cannot be done in the way of shipments to Hongkong and China from the US. Their formal decision is expected to be announced soon after final approval by the Secretary of Commerce, Mr Charles Sawyer.

The spokesman, who confirmed that the decision would mean for Hongkong the choice between minimum economic standards or prompt reduction to austerity, defined the former as a "state of economic semi-paralysis with a bare semblance of stability."

Austerity standards, he said, would guarantee only enough food and clothing needed from America to ensure a health minimum.

Hongkong, he said, was assured of her "essential requirements." These would be met. But definitely out were such "powder-puff items" as fountain pens, pencils, typewriters, and

so forth, and especially any and all goods for re-export.

The new ruling calls for an export licence for every commodity shipped to Hongkong by US exporters. The committee must decide what goods are to be approved and also in what circumstances exceptions may be allowed. For instance, though rubber tyres are high on the barred list a few badly-needed bus tyres might be approved "for use on the streets of Hongkong only."

It was pointed out at the Department of Commerce in Washington that the regulation does not mean that everything will necessarily be banned for shipment to China. "That depends," said an official, "entirely on how the situation with China develops. The way things look now, together with pressure of public opinion, it will perhaps come to that. Families with boys fighting in Korea have been letting their Congressmen know how they feel about us supplying any goods whatever to a country shooting at their sons."

American exports to China have been falling at a tremendous rate even before the outbreak of war in Korea. Imports from China have not changed much. Ninety per cent of America's hog bristles still come from China. This country has also been getting tungsten, tin, tung oil, wool, tea and spices.

DEPT. SWAMPED

Applications for export licences are swamping the Department of Commerce. And none will be issued until the inter-departmental committee rules on major policy. Meanwhile US exporters are biting their fingernails. Many have goods already on the docks ready for loading. One malt exporter said he had cases of hops on the docks at Seattle "and we can't even look for another market because they were packed to the special requirements of a firm in Hongkong. We have applied for a licence and now all we can do is hope."

(Continued on Page 8 Col. 3)

Not At All Promising

London, Dec. 18.
Mr Kenneth Younger, Britain's delegate in the United Nations General Assembly, said today that Communist China's attitude on Korea "is not at all promising."

However, he added, upon his arrival here by air from New York, "one must not rule out the possibility" that the Chinese Communists may yet change their minds.—United Press.

FRENCH FORCES ON THE ALERT

Hanoi, Dec. 18.
French forces and police throughout the Tonkin delta area in Northern Indo-China were put on the alert today against Vietminh attacks tomorrow, the anniversary of the uprising in 1946.

General De Lattre de Tassigny, newly appointed French Commander in Indo-China, is due at Hanoi tomorrow on his first inspection tour of the threatened province.

A spokesman said that a French post only about 20 miles north-west of Hanoi had been attacked.

French aircraft bombed supply centres and Vietminh camps throughout the area, the spokesman added.

A road convoy travelling from Saigon to Loc Ninh, about 70 miles to the north, was ambushed on Saturday. Four lorries were lost.—Reuter.

Italian Lire Slumps

Rome, Dec. 18.

The Italian lire dropped heavily today in terms of gold dollars and sterling in a new wave of war fear provoked by America's state of emergency and the Russian warning against German rearmament.

A parallel fall was recorded on the free markets in Rome, Milan, Genoa and Turin.

In Rome the free price of the dollar jumped from 704 lire on Friday to 740 today and the pound sterling from 1,750 to 1,800 lire.

A month ago today a dollar fetched 670 lire and the pound sterling 1,700.—Reuter.

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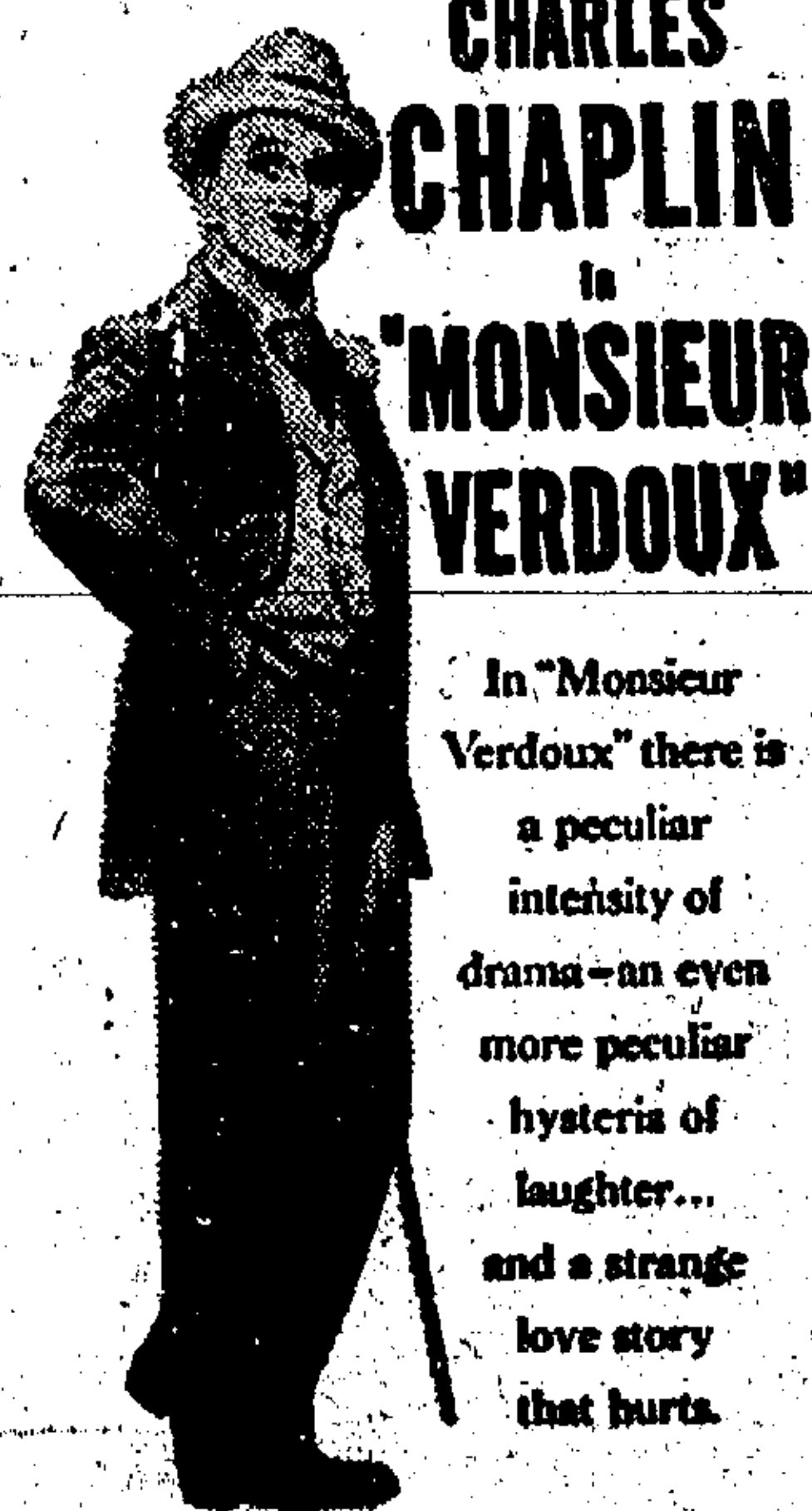
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Sandwiched between some of the first wounded Britons to be flown home from Korea is little Peter Mounsey, two, who is recovering from polio. Lance Corporal John Emms leans over to cheer up the sad-eyed youngster as their plane arrives in Lyneham in England.

**LARGE GOLD SEIZURES
BY CUSTOMS IN BOMBAY**

Bombay, Dec. 18.

Customs officials here last night seized 98 kilograms (about 196 pounds) of contraband gold, estimated to be worth \$71,250, from four Italians who arrived by air from Europe.

The gold was found hidden on the passengers and behind false sides of their suitcases. The passengers described themselves as "textile and leather merchants, coming to India to extend contacts."

Customs officials first discovered about 50 kilograms (100 pounds) when an Air India International Constellation arrived from Europe. The gold was discovered in one-kilo bars inside the waist-coats of two passengers whose undue haste prompted Customs In-

spector John Goes to take "another look" after an initial search.

Inspector Goes found gold also in the plywood side of the passengers' suitcases—making up a total of 50 kilograms. The Customs officials then decided to search all incoming planes. They found 24 kilograms of gold on another Italian who arrived later in the evening from Europe by Trans-World Airlines.

A fourth Italian arriving at night by a Ceylon airliner was searched and 24 kilograms of gold were seized from him.

Yesterday's haul has raised Bombay Customs' contraband gold seizures in the last month to over £1,200,000.

The biggest single seizure was £247,000 worth of gold last April from a group of Arabs arriving in the country by sea from the Middle East.

A Customs official said that, after the recent vigil at the docks, smugglers were apparently continuing their activities by air.—Reuter.

**Comprehension
Barrier**

New York, Dec. 18.

The New York Times, in an editorial today, said it was difficult to read General Wu Hsiuchuan's (Communist China's UN delegate) press conference statement without feeling sheer bewilderment.

The editorial said: "It has some aspects of a grotesque dream in which everything is inside out, in which one walks on ceilings, in which water is dry and lead is feather weight. Words lost their meaning and their context. The whole concept of factual truth had been not betrayed but totally discarded."

"This raised the grim question: Is the Chinese Communist spokesman actually living in such a topsy turvy world that he can honestly believe his own words? If he and any member of his colleagues actually think those thoughts and really believe that they have any relation to what is happening in our world and our minds, then we are faced with an appallingly difficult problem of making ourselves understood even in the slightest. This is not just a language barrier. It is a total comprehension barrier."—United Press.

**Air Collision
Over Tourane**

Paris, Dec. 18.

Thirty French Army officers and men were killed when two Junkers collided in flight over Tourane, the Agence France Presse reported from Saigon today.—Reuter.

**Tourists Can
Spend More**

London, Dec. 18.

The British Treasury tonight doubled the £50 sterling allowance to tourists to a wide range of European, South American and African territories.

The new rates also apply to Britons already abroad.

Under the new allowances adults will get £100 instead of £50 a year and children under 15 £70 instead of £35.

There are no restrictions on the amounts that can be spent by British residents travelling in the sterling area but no tourist allowance is available to those in the dollar area.—Reuter.

**Officers Die In
Car Crash**

Pensacola, Florida, Dec. 18.

An officer of the Italian Navy and a Mexican Naval officer were killed today when their car crashed through two bridge barricades and struck a highway department truck near here.

Lieut. Armando Marcos of Mexico and Lieut. Luigi Batti of Italy died in the wreck.

Officers said their car was travelling at a high rate of speed when it crashed through two bridge barricades on the Pensacola Bay bridge. Another Italian lieutenant, Vittorio Corbelli, was injured. The three men were under police guard at the hospital.—United Press.

**Hongkong Radio
Programme**

Owing to a misunderstanding, the Hongkong Radio programmes published in this morning's South China Morning Post are the programmes for tomorrow and not today.

Will everybody who is scheduled to take part in studio programmes tonight note that they are expected to be present according to original arrangements.

The correct programmes for today will be appearing in this afternoon's China Mail.

REDS FEELING FOR WEAK SPOT

Naval Guns Keep Up Heavy Barrage In Hungnam Beachhead

Dutch Troops In Training In Korea

Seoul, Dec. 18.

The Netherlands detachment to the United Nations forces in Korea has been attached to the United States Second Division for training and preparation for combat, it was announced today.

The detachment is carrying out patrol operations as part of the training in Korea to be prepared against condition which they will face later in combat.

The Dutch detachment, somewhat less than a battalion size, is composed mainly of veteran soldiers but with a few recruits in the ranks. They include paratroopers, artillerymen, engineers and sailors moulded into an effective infantry fighting unit through special training.

During their voyage from Rotterdam to Korea, the Dutch troops were trained with weapons by special instructors who had served with the Dutch army. Since their arrival in Korea they have been given additional training with new and special infantry weapons which will enable them "to give the enemy some unpleasant" things.

The commanding officer of the Dutch detachment is Lieut. Col. M. P. A. des Ouden of the Hague. This is the second Dutch contribution to the United Nations effort in Korea. The first was the destroyer "Eveten" now patrolling in Korean waters.—United Press.

Trains Collide

Prague, Dec. 18.

Three were killed and 35 injured—17 of them seriously—in a collision between a passenger train and a goods train on the outskirts of Prague last night, it was officially announced.—Reuter.

Methodical Arc Around American Lines

Tokyo, Dec. 18.

Shells from Allied warships tore into the massed Chinese Communist troops pressing against the shrinking United Nations perimeter around Hungnam in North-East Korea.

Etna Still Erupting

Catania, Sicily, Dec. 18.

Army planes which plunged into the heavy clouds of steam and smoke encircling the Mount Etna crater, were forced to turn back on Monday because mist reduced visibility to zero.

The planes attempted unsuccessfully to photograph the volcano's crater which has been belching lava and fire for the past 18 days.

On the ground, rain slowed the new stream of lava which poured out of the volcano during the night. The tips of the new stream were still about 10 miles from the villages of Milo Fornazzo and Rinazza which have been almost completely evacuated for more than a week.—United Press.

Police Close In On Gangsters

Rome, Dec. 18.

Italian police are slowly closing a widespread net thrown across Italy in which they hope to catch the leaders of an underworld gang which specialised in stealing travellers' cheques from visitors and cashing them at local banks.

Several members of the gang had already been arrested.—Reuter.

The big guns of the United States warships standing offshore laid a curtain of fire around the hard-pressed and isolated American garrison maintaining a deadly No-Man's-Land of flying steel between the thin Allied line and the overwhelming enemy forces.

On the other fronts Allied air observers reported that the Chinese Communist armies facing the Anglo-American defence line in the North-West were massing north of Seoul, the Southern capital.

But frontline reports indicated that the Communists had called a halt at least temporarily to their crushing onslaught against the outnumbered United Nations forces.

The Communists launched light probing attacks in the past 24 hours, but there was no sign of any big-scale winter offensive.

The biggest assault of the battle for Hungnam, in the North-East, came today from a Chinese Communist company three miles southeast of Hamhung, which was abandoned to the enemy on Saturday.

The Communists were reported only four miles northeast of the port itself.

The heavy cruisers Rochester and St Paul and supporting destroyers, pinpointing Communist concentrations and road junctions with the aid of spotting planes, were lobbing shells over the perimeter all day long.

Carrier-based planes pounded troop concentrations, buildings and railway installations. Hamhung was heavily battered. Naval units also bombarded other Chinese installations further up the east coast.

WELL NORTH

Ronald Batchelor, Reuter's correspondent in Seoul, reported today that the main Chinese Communist forces massed in North-West Korea were still ranged along the 38th Parallel, running through Pyongyang, the battered North Korean capital.

The 70-mile wide area between them and the United Nations are defending Seoul was occupied exclusively by regrouped and lightly armoured North Korean units and guerrillas.

They had no artillery and little transport. Their immediate orders appeared to be to probe across the vital 38th Parallel, separating the two Koreas, seeking out the strength and weakness of the Allied line.

The enemy were met in clashes in the Haeju, Kaesong and Yonchon areas at each end of the Eighth Army positions and had all been identified as Koreans.

No contact with the main Chinese Communist forces had been made for the past fortnight. The Eighth Army was maintaining and improving its positions throughout the entire sector along the 38th Parallel. General MacArthur announced today.

British and Commonwealth naval units were patrolling the West Coast.—Reuter.

HEAVY BARRAGE

With The Third Division.

Dec. 19.

Blazing naval and field guns sent tons of booming shells crashing outside the American defence ring around Hungnam this morning, as the siege dragged into the fourth day without a major attack.

The Communists, who hammered at the front's right flank yesterday morning and at night, pulled back into the hills after a brief but vicious fight with

Third Division troops. The Reds ran and scrambled close enough to United States positions to lob hand grenades into the American lines. But stubborn infantry and artillery fire blunted the assault, and the front was quiet at midnight.

Offshore cruisers hurled deadly three-foot shells through the clear cold night in a methodical arc around the American lines. Howitzers added their thunder to the Navy's eight-inchers, and that, for the present, was enough to keep at bay several thousand Chinese and North Koreans who have only jabbed at the American lines since their first major attack was turned back in a vicious day-long battle on Friday.

THE VIGIL

Meanwhile, carrier-based Navy and Marine planes which hacked at the Reds from clear skies all round the perimeter yesterday, reported sighting Chinese artillery for the first time. A flight of bombers reported strafing and bombing trucks and "several camouflaged field guns" ten miles west of Hamhung. Another flight bombed troops and four mortar positions five miles north of the city.

The lull in the fighting brought no letup in the vigil of the American riflemen manning the bitter cold outposts around the front.

The Chinese are stalking the front feeling for a weak spot, and staff officers know that once they have found it, there will be another major attack.—United Press.

Christmas Spirit

Schuetdorf, Lower Saxony, Dec. 18.

A German dressed as Santa Claus was seriously burned in the face here when young boys showered him with inflammable material which ignited his beard and set fire to his clothes.—Reuter.

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ADDED! LATEST WARNER PATHE NEWS

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Ilse Feigning Insanity

Augsburg, Dec. 18.

Two German psychiatrists told the Court today that Ilse Koch, former mistress of Buchenwald, was "completely normal" and should not be transferred to an insane asylum to escape trial.

Drs Rudolf Engler and Gerhard Sieghart said Koch feigned insanity to "sabotage" her trial on charges of mass murder and brutality.—United Press.

"Ladies' Bracelets" Selling Well

Sydney, Dec. 18.

Labelled "Ladies' Bracelets," a war disposals store here is offering Army leg-irons at four shillings a pair.

They are selling well—mostly to lorry drivers who like to find their tyres where they left them.—Reuter.

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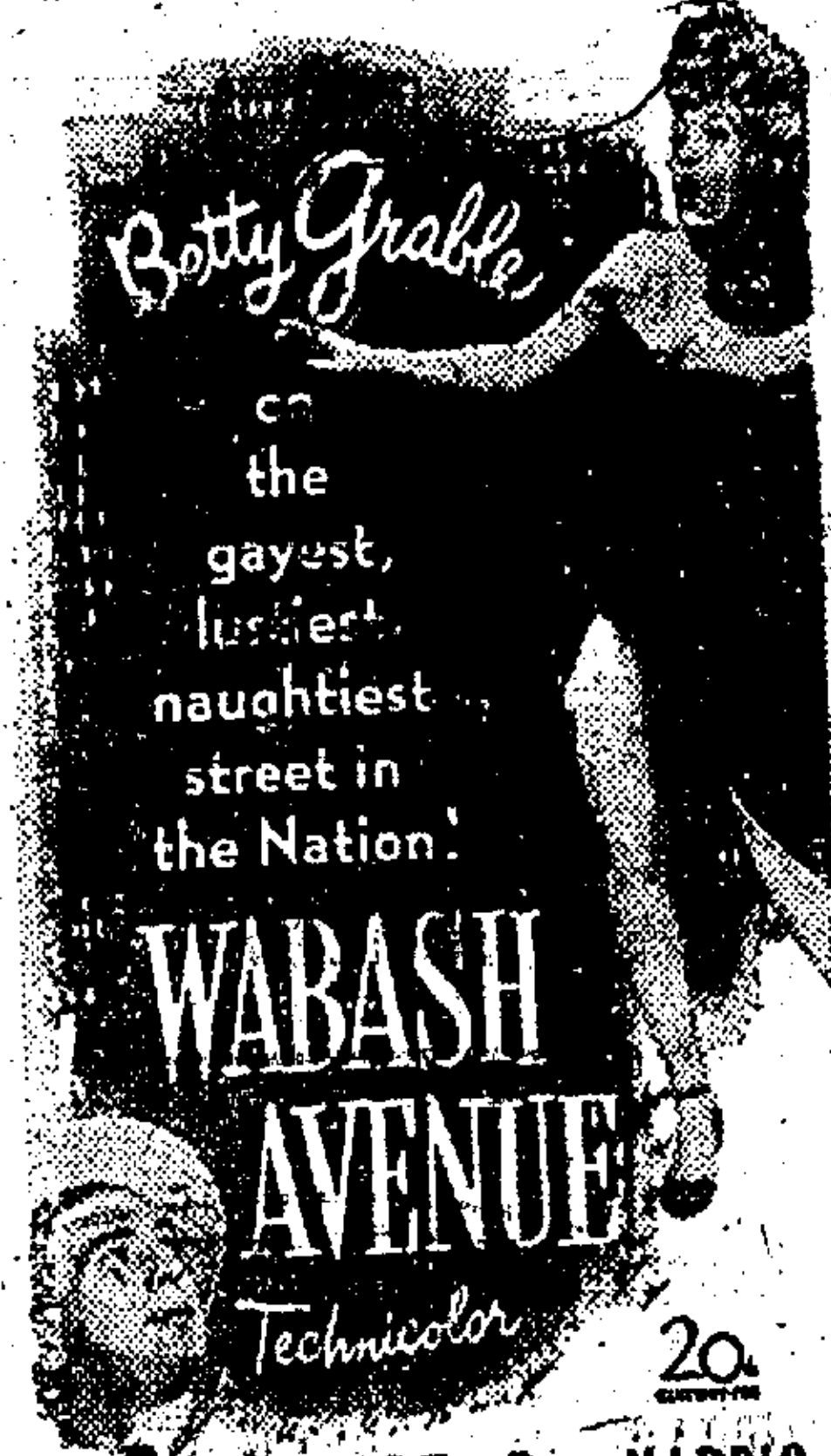
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A WINTER WARMER FROM PARIS.—"Masked Bandit" would be an apt title for this new collar style by O'Rossen of Paris. It is an original styled funnel-shaped collar on a biege raglan winter coat. (Central Press)

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ORDERS BOOKED

Pope's Order To Bishops

Vatican City, Dec. 18.
Pope Plus XII has ordered all Catholic bishops throughout the world not to leave their posts during the current period of crisis, usually well-informed Vatican circles reported tonight.

This was not interpreted as meaning expectation in the Vatican of immediate war but rather as part of the Pope's campaign to mobilise the world's 400,000,000 Catholics in intensive devotions for peace.

The next high point in this campaign will be the exceptional midnight mass to be celebrated in all Catholic churches throughout the world on New Year's Eve.—Reuter.

Air Strafing In Korea

Korea, Dec. 18.
Royal Australian Air Force Mustangs roared low over snow-covered Pyongyang this morning to strafe and napalm Chinese Communist troops, vehicles and gun emplacements.

Australian pilots halted a locomotive just north of the city with bursts from their 50-calibre machine-guns and then struck again with napalm to complete the destruction of the engine.

Mustangs also destroyed a pontoon bridge across the Taedong River, south of the city, Fifth Air Force headquarters announced.

American jets today claimed the destruction of four locomotives near Chungwa, about 10 miles south of Pyongyang.

By midday, until a semi-snowstorm limited operations, the Fifth Air Force claimed 300 Communist troops killed or wounded and 11 villages damaged or destroyed.—Reuter.

Gandhi Memorial

Ahmedabad, Dec. 18.
The private house at Kochrab, near here, where Mahatma Gandhi lived after his return from South Africa in 1915, is to be acquired as a national memorial.

Sabarmati Ashram, from where Gandhi launched his civil disobedience movement in 1930, has already been acquired.—Reuter.

BRITAIN LOOKS FOR A NEW DEFENCE BASE

London, Dec. 18.

British defence experts are already looking for alternatives to the Suez Canal base in anticipation of the British withdrawal from that area when the Anglo-Egyptian treaty expires in 1956.

Well-informed sources said today that it was being borne in mind that the next six years would be comparatively short notice for the preparation of alternative bases which must be found and got ready before any withdrawal from the Canal Zone could be undertaken.

This study of alternative bases was said to be connected with the visit to London of General Sir Brian Robertson, Middle East Commander-in-Chief. It was pointed out that General Robertson recently toured the capitals of all Middle Eastern countries and his arrival in London coincided with the Anglo-Egyptian talks on Egypt's demand for revision of the 1936 treaty.

Informed sources said study of alternative bases in the Middle East was actually started before General Robertson made his tour.

"But it can be assumed that his visit to London at this juncture would probably be connected, in an advisory capacity, on the decision to prepare other bases," they added.

Also, they said, it could be assumed that if satisfactory alternative bases could be established, there would be reason to suppose Britain would be ready to withdraw a por-

portion of its forces in the Canal Zone and so show readiness to meet the Egyptian demands for withdrawal of the British forces.

LESSONS OF WAR

It was also pointed out that defence experts nowadays were not inclined to place great emphasis on the Canal Zone from the viewpoint of Middle East defences as a whole. Informed quarters said:

"The last war showed that troops in the Canal Zone were there primarily to defend the Canal itself and they could not be counted on to take part in the defence of areas such as the Persian oil centres, which are a 1,000 miles distant."

Informed sources added that the new strategic concept tended to place great emphasis on Turkey as the heart of the Middle Eastern defences and this idea was finding increasing approval by the United States' defence experts. The Middle Eastern strategic scene was studied today in terms of Iran becoming a Russian invasion route, with the aim of assuming control of the fountainhead of the West's strategic supplies.

"Today there is no pressing need to defend the Canal to ensure oil supplies, which can now be piped to the Mediterranean," they continued, "but it is necessary to have bases for the defence of the centre of supplies both in Iran and Iraq. It would be outmoded strategy to assume the defence forces in the Canal Zone could play any part in such strategy and this is the main reason for looking for alternative bases."—United Press.

WRECKAGE OF PLANE FOUND

Coimbatore, South India,

Dec. 18.

Parts of a plane have been found 60 miles north-east of here, where an Air India Dakota is believed to have come down last Wednesday with 20 people on board, including four Britons and two Americans.

A military search party has left here for the area, the Nilgiri Ranges, on the Mysore border.

Air India officials could not confirm whether the plane was the missing Dakota, but they said it was quite likely that the plane had lost its bearings in heavy fog and flown northwards off its course.

It was on a flight from Madras to Trivandrum, on the south-west coast of India.

Searchers in the dense jungle have had only two clues to guide them. The plane is reported to have radioed 10 minutes before it was due to land at Coimbatore, and forest guards in the Nilgiris reported that they had heard a crash on Wednesday morning.

The British passengers were C. G. Marshall, Mrs H. Thein, and Mr and Mrs R. D. Robey. The Americans were Professor Abraham Wald, of Columbia University, and his wife who were travelling to Trivandrum where the Professor was to lecture at the University.

Also on board was Mr W. F. Saille, a Swiss.—Reuter.

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George Marshall To Retire

Washington, Dec. 18.

President Truman was reported by a White House source today to be considering Mr W. Stuart Symington for the post of Defence Secretary when General George Marshall decides to vacate it. Mr Symington is Chairman of the National Security Resources Board.

The White House source said that the President felt he could not ask the General, whom he called out of retirement, to continue indefinitely the heavy duties of the Defence post. General Marshall will be 70 on December 31.—Reuter.

Rhee Regime Attacked In Oslo

Oslo, Dec. 18.

A protest against the "terror regime" in South Korea was made today by the independent Oslo daily, Verdens Gang, as a matter which "concerned the whole free world."

The paper urged the Norwegian Foreign Minister, Dr Halvard Lange, now attending the North Atlantic Pact talks in Brussels, to take the initiative officially and powerfully.

Referring to the reported killing without trial by South Korean guards of women and children suspected of Communist sympathies, the newspaper said: "It is easy to say that war is war, but this is happening in a country where the United Nations have special obligations."

"The South Korean authorities' lawless methods, therefore, cannot be regarded as an internal matter but as a matter which concerns the whole free world."—Reuter.

Smuggling Into PI

Manila, Dec. 18.

The Philippine Government is seeking the co-operation of the British authorities in Borneo to halt the large-scale smuggling of contraband goods, including American cigarettes and opium, from British North Borneo to the Philippines.—Reuter.

Strange Quiet On NE Korea Front

(By William Chapman)

Hungnam Beachhead, Korea, Dec. 18.

After less than 15 minutes' walk from the Hungnam waterfront, I stood on a high ridge on Monday and looked down on all the territory held by the United Nations in north-east Korea.

In the distance, plainly visible in the bright sunlight, the Red-held city of Hungnam smoulders quietly. The crack of rifles and the quick staccato of 50-calibre heavy machine-guns sounds close by.

The rim of smoke towers marks the American defence arc, set up around this area of the Japan Sea port. They extend on the left past the once active United Nations air base of Yongpo, in the centre, almost into Hamhung, and on the right into the hills which creep close to the waterfront on the north-east rim of the perimeter.

At the base of one hill lies a command post. On the other side two 155-millimetre howitzers pump shells at a moderate rate of fire into enemy territory. The explosions of their shells throw new smoke pillars up in the valley east of Hamhung.

A lonely L-5 observation plane flies low over the ridges beyond Hamhung, spotting targets for the big guns. Fighter-bombers from Navy carriers standing offshore come by in waves, breaking out for different sectors of Red territory in continuous search for targets. In the side perimeter big

trucks and heavy equipment swirl up clouds of dust on the roads that were a sea of mud only a few days ago. Bulldozers work at carving new perimeter defence positions out of the frozen earth.

STRANGE SIGHT

The Hamhung-Hungnam plain bordering on the Tongsongchon river, is almost devoid of movement beyond the United Nations lines. But an occasional white flare—usually a bad omen when it comes from the Communist lines—arches over distant Hamhung.

It is a strangely pacific sight to be a battleground. One G.I. standing in a foxhole atop the ridge shakes his head wearily. He says: "I've been through World War II in Germany. But I never say anything like this so-called war. I reckon they are out there. But I don't see anybody. It's just not right."—United Press.



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KOREA CEASE-FIRE PROBLEM

Procedure Discussed By The Asian-Arab Countries

Efforts To Allay Peking Suspicion

Lake Success, Dec. 18.

Delegates from Asian and Middle Eastern countries met today to discuss the Korean cease-fire question after the United Nations Political Committee adjourned indefinitely.

The meeting, called by Sir Benegal Rau, leader of the Indian delegation, was confined to the 12 nations which sponsored a resolution calling for the appointment of a commission to study existing issues in the Far East.

The Philippines representative, who signed the 13-nation appeal for a cease-fire but declined to support the other resolution, was not invited to today's meeting.

The meeting was believed to have been called at the instance of those delegations which felt that discussion of broader issues at the same time as the cease-fire question would help to solve the present deadlock.

Sir Benegal, who presided, said, "We considered how best we can allay certain suspicions that have been expressed in connection with the proposal for a cease-fire."

It was clear that he was referring to the statement made by the Chinese Communist representative, General Wu Hsiuchuan, at a Press conference on Saturday.

General Wu said that China believed that the proposals were a trap.

Sir Benegal said that the conference had not decided on any particular way of allaying the suspicions.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Asked whether diplomatic means would be employed to allay Peking's fears, Sir Benegal said that the conference considered the question in a general way.

Asked whether he would meet General Wu again before he returned to Peking, Sir Benegal said that he would at least meet him to say goodbye.

Earlier, the three-man United Nations Cease-Fire Committee had reported to the Political Committee that they had received no reply from the Chinese Communist authorities to a request for a discussion on a cease-fire in Korea.

Mr Lester Pearson, Canadian Minister for External Affairs, who is a member of the Committee, announced that in a message to the Peking Government the Committee had stated its willingness to discuss a cease-fire either in New York or elsewhere.

The message was sent to Peking on Saturday and so far no reply had been received. Mr Pearson emphasised that this was not unusual in view of communication conditions.

Mr Pearson said that the Committee, consisting of himself, Sir Benegal and Mr Nasrallah

Entezami of Persia, the President of the United Nations General Assembly, had met representatives of the unified command and had an interesting and useful discussion on cease-fire conditions.

On Friday last the Committee tried to get in touch with representatives of the Chinese People's Republic in New York but were unable to establish official contact with them.

Informal contact was made with the Peking representatives largely through Sir Benegal.

The Chinese Communist representatives, headed by General Wu, had stated that they did not have authority to meet the group officially.

The Committee then sent General Wu a message and transmitted a copy to the Foreign Minister of the Chinese People's Republic (Mr Chou En-lai) in Peking.

ISOLATING CONFLICT

The message said that the purpose of determining satisfactory conditions for a cease-fire was to prevent the conflict from spreading to other areas.

Another aim was to end the fighting and provide an opportunity to consider what further steps should be taken for a peaceful settlement of further issues.

The message said, "Since the Central Government of the Chinese People's Republic has expressed strong views on the Korean war, and since there is Chinese participation in that warfare, the Committee wishes to discuss with your Government and the military authorities in North Korea the possible provisions of a cease-fire."

"In the interests of stopping the fighting and achieving a just settlement of the issues within the principles of the Charter we are prepared for a discussion with your representatives here or elsewhere."

"We urge that an arrangement should be made for discussion with the least possible delay."

Mr Pearson emphasised that there had not been much opportunity to receive a reply from Peking. He therefore urged the Political Committee to give the group more time for negotiations.

RUSSIAN VIEW

Mr Jacob Malik (Russia) had no objections to giving more time. But he stressed that dis-



An American Marine putting POW tags on two Chinese Reds captured at Chosin Reservoir, in North Korea. The Reds wear the appropriate, cold-weather clothing of the Communists while Tenold wears overcoat of GI issue.

cussion of a cease-fire alone was too narrow a concept.

It had to be linked with the whole question of the withdrawal of foreign troops from Korea, he declared.

He maintained that while the three-nation group continued its negotiation, the Political Committee could profitably continue debate on the following subjects:

- (1) American aggression against China.
- (2) The question of Formosa.
- (3) Pending resolutions on Korea.
- (4) Bombing of Chinese territory by United States planes.

Mr Malik accused the American delegation of deliberately trying to avoid a discussion of these issues.

This was a mockery of the rules of procedure, he asserted.

"CANNOT WAIT"

He also protested against the "impoliteness" shown to the Peking representative who, he said, had been kept waiting for days without an opportunity of putting his case before the Political Committee.

Referring to the announced departure tomorrow of General Wu, Mr Malik said, "This representative cannot wait an indefinite time until the Anglo-American bloc is good enough to let him speak here."

Mr Malik then referred to reports of alleged "atrocities" committed by the South Korean authorities.

He said that thousands of innocent women and children were being killed by "maniacs" under the hall-mark of the United Nations.—Reuter.

Sensational Step Taken By General Motors

Detroit, Dec. 18.

General Motors stopped the sales of all Chevrolets, Pontiacs and Cadillacs shipped to dealers after Monday.

This action of the world's largest automobile manufacturer will freeze one-third of United States car sales.

Cars now in dealers' show-rooms or en route, were not affected by the order. Apparently it was G.M.'s answer to the Government's order of Saturday rolling prices back to Dec. 1 levels.

The drastic move was believed to be the first general "freeze" ever ordered by an American automobile company.

G.M.'s two makes, Buick and Oldsmobile, were not included in the order. Their 1951 models were not scheduled for introduction until next month.

Ford, Chrysler and Nash, and other automobile companies affected by the price roll-back, had no immediate comment.

But it is generally known that the leaders of the motor-car industry are angry at being named in the Government's drive against inflation.

There is a promise that they will fight it out at a conference with stabilisation officials on Wednesday in Washington.

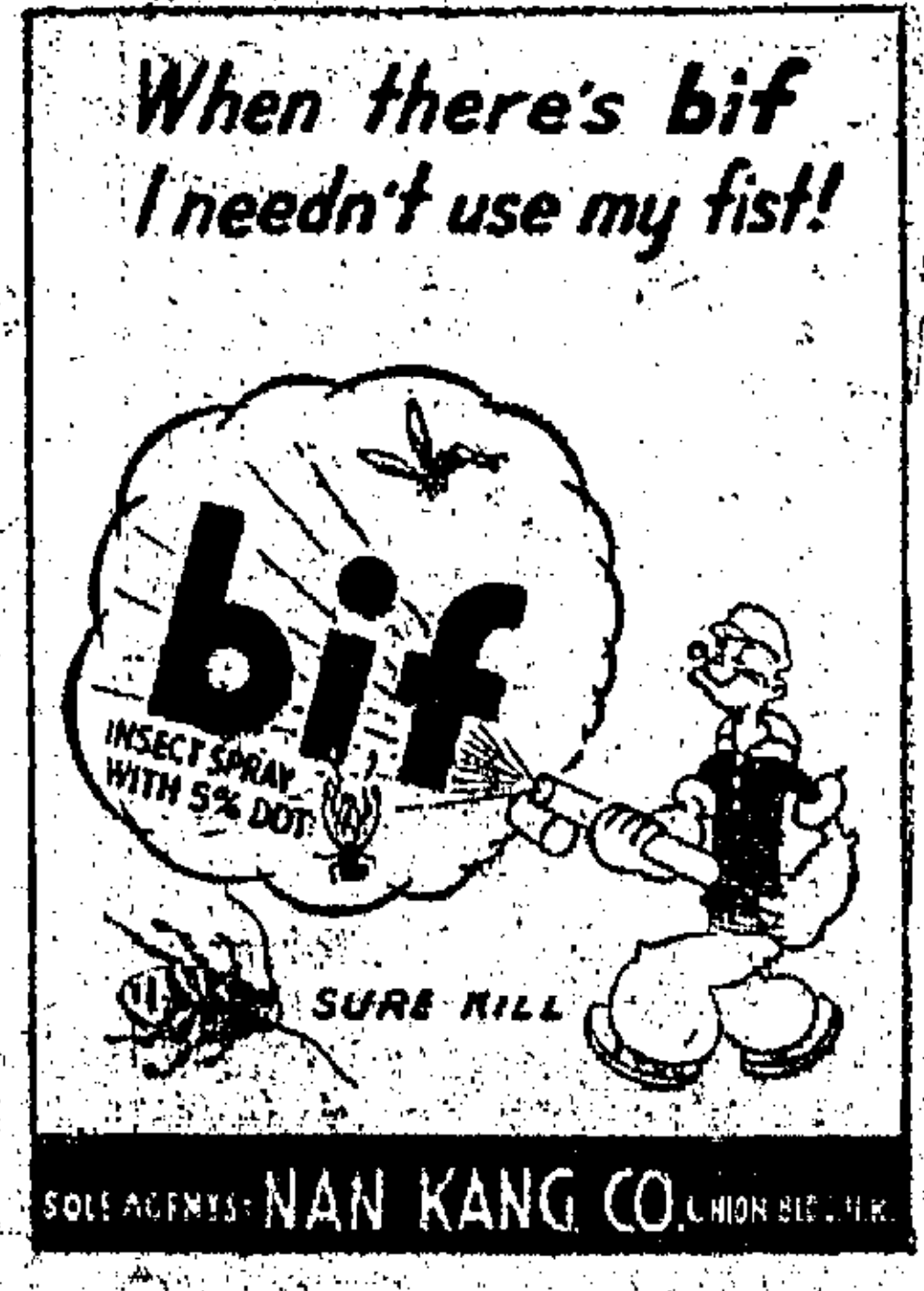
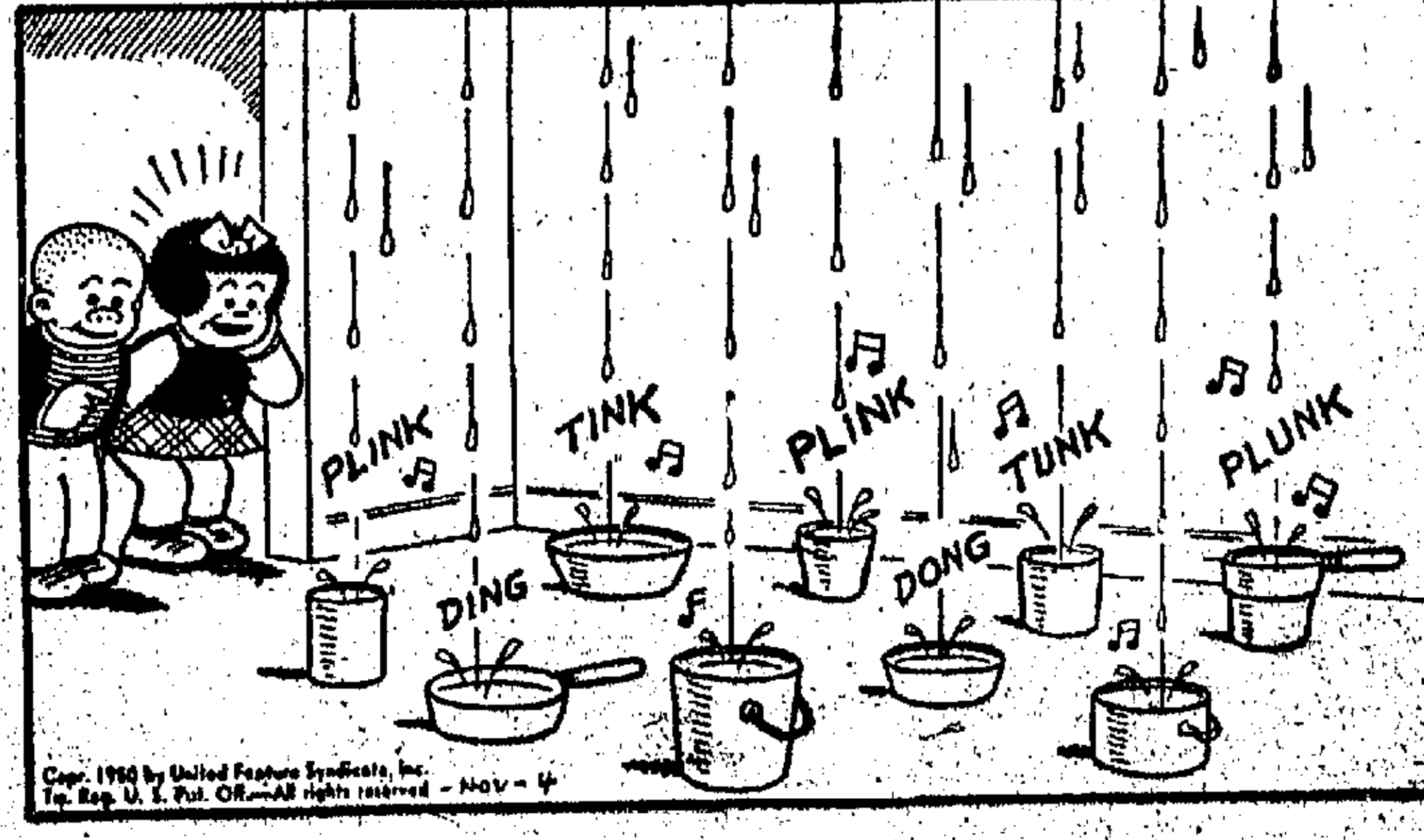
A spokesman of the Economic Stabilisation Agency in Washington said the Agency would make no comment on the General Motors action stopping the sale of 1951 model cars "until we receive formal notice of the action."

The General Motors President, C. E. Wilson, sent a letter to unions warning that "this sudden and discriminatory" order placed in jeopardy the cost of living contracts the Corporation has with unions representing 400,000 employees. Mr Wilson said, "An arbitrary price freeze would seem to require an equally arbitrary wage freeze."—United Press.

NANCY

Canned Music

By Ernie Bushmiller



MACDONALD BAILEY HOLDS STRONG VIEWS ON SOCCER TRAINING METHODS

By HAROLD MAYES

With most of our sports in which there has been something of a downhill trend someone at some time or other has pointed for a reason either to lack of training, or training on the wrong lines. But few people have really stuck out their necks to suggest that England's footballers, who certainly put in more hours in preparation for their games than people in other spheres, don't go about their training properly.

Well, I've now heard that twice within three days. First blow came from one of Britain's leading experts on the physical application of the human body to sporting pursuits, and the second from an athlete who should know as much about conditioning as anyone in the world—coloured sprinter McDonald Bailey.

Mac, who has now left for the New Zealand Centenary Games in Christchurch, has been training with Brentford footballers at Griffin Park, and holds decided views on Soccer get-fit methods.

"Don't get me wrong," says Mac. "This is no attack on the Brentford players. I have trained with a lot of footballers at one time or another, and I don't think enough attention is given to scientific sprinting practice or to a studied application on the field of carefully thought-out moves."

"I'll go so far as to say that the majority of footballers don't know the first thing about getting into shape. If they did I'm sure their football would be immensely improved."

What of the physical culture expert? Well, he's a man who deals with all types, and his view of footballers is that they seem to do just as much as they have to, and no more.

"I actually trained with players of several clubs to study their methods, and found that when the trainer disappeared for a moment what was no more than jog-trot lapping slowed instantly to a walk," he told me.

Can this really be the reason why the rest of the Soccer world has caught us up, and raced past? Could be, and that view certainly gets confirmation from the way the Austrians, just before playing Scotland at Hampden, set about their training in London. There was nothing lackadaisical about any of their work.

TAX-DODGING PLAN

Some greyhound track executives are becoming alarmed at a taxdodging plan which is being operated by some starting-price bookmakers and their clients.

As far as S.P. offices are concerned it is strictly business, but so much money is by-passing the heavily-licensed betting rings and the totes that track managements are beginning to feel the pinch, and the Government's rake-off is falling.

By mutual arrangement a punter opens a credit account with his bookmaker and bets at the track through the account, and as all credit offices are untaxed, the bookie, if he wins, is paid out in full.

This can mean big money over a period, and astute backers who plunge heavily were among the first to divert their investments.

Sixteen percent (10 p.c. Government levy and 6 p.c. operation fees for the tracks) is taken from all money passing through the dog totes, while to bet at one meeting can cost a bookie up to £48 in tax, plus track fees. So perhaps it is only following the law of economics to swing credit betting to untaxed sources.

Four speedway riders, world champion Freddie Williams (Wembley), Split Waterman (Harringay), Cyril Roger (New Cross) and Howdy Byford (West Ham) are planning to open a speedway track at the existing greyhound stadium in Barking.

next summer. Alterations I understand will make it possible to house 20,000 spectators.

Riders here, of course, are not allowed to be associated with promotion of the sport but the authority of the Auto Cycle Union and the Speedway Control Board does not extend to Eire. As there are three Williams brothers and three Roger brothers there would well be a big family team to ride on the new track on Sundays.

Waterman is at present in New Zealand and Byford is doing most of the preparations along with Geoff Woodcock, former secretary of the Speedway Riders' Association, who will, I understand, manage the new track.

FARR'S NEXT MOVE

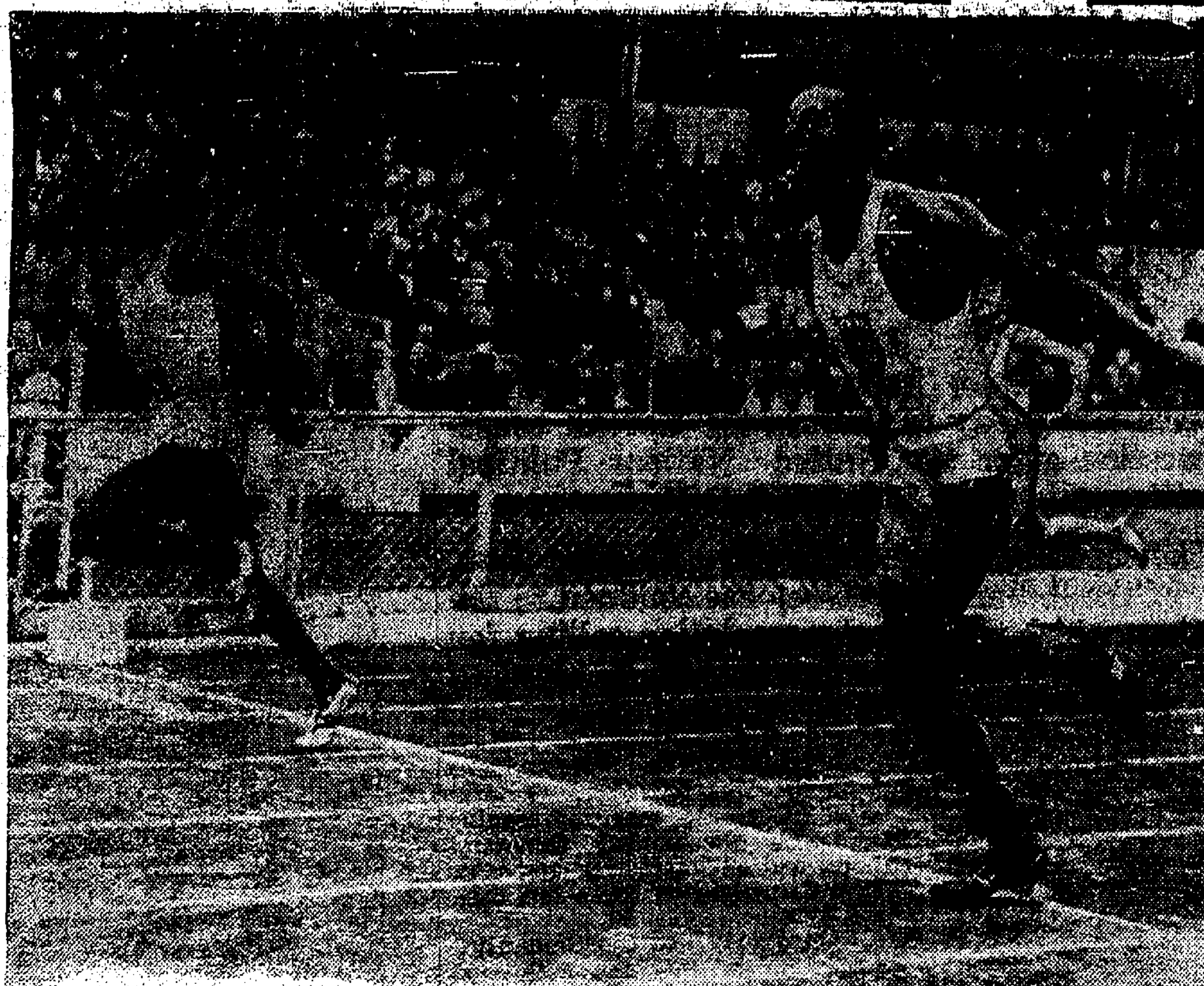
"It's easy to kick a dog when he's down," was the attitude of Tommy Farr when I spoke to him concerning his defeat by coloured American Lloyd Marshall.

But I gathered that Tommy is not nearly so perturbed about the setback as some of his critics, and is intent on erasing the blot from his come-back record. How? By pressing for a return with Marshall as quickly as he can get it.

Whatever else happened, Farr did go the distance with the only man who holds a knock-out victory over the reigning World Champion, Ezzard Charles, and who, incidentally, also has a decision over the Lighthweight Champion Joey Maxim, so was there such disgrace in defeat after all?

Chubby Reg King, the Nottingham promoter with a bid of £3,025, has secured the Ronnie Clayton-Al Phillips fight, for Nottingham Ice Rink for January 29, subject to the British Boxing Board of Control agreeing that Clayton's British and Empire titles shall be on the line.

Big money for Nottingham perhaps but Reg takes the view that if he gets only fourpence out of a show like that and the customers are happy he's not complaining.



MacDonald Bailey gets the last ounce of energy out of himself for one of the upsets of the last athletic season—his victory over American champion Arthur Bragg.

English Cricket Is Back Temporarily On The Pedestal Of Its Larwood Days

By ARCHIE QUICK

English cricket is temporarily back upon the pedestal of its Larwood days as a result of having dismissed Australia's phalanx of batting giants in one day on, for Brisbane, a good wicket. It is but a matter of conjecture whether the good work can be continued at Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide or whether Miller, Morris, Harvey and Co. will wreak dire revenge.

One or other or all of them are sure to get big scores in subsequent Tests, because England's attack is obviously below Test Match standard, but the moral uplift to Bedser, Bailey, Wright and their companions must be tremendous.

Despite the idiosyncrasies of the Melbourne wicket it is not a "Brisbane" and Freddie Brown will not dare go into the field with only four recognised bowlers, including himself. There is always Denis Compton, of course, but a place will have to be found for Close or Warr, and I expect it will be McIntyre who will go.

A DOLEFUL FACT

It is a doleful fact that England have not won a Test Match since "Hutton's Game" at the Oval in 1938. Since then the Australians have won seven and drawn three of the ten matches played. But it was the same after World War I. England went from 1912 to 1926 without winning a Test series—and then Larwood arrived.

Is there another Larwood lurking? What is the reason for the Australians' supremacy? I think the two questions are bound up in the same answer.

It is the Australians' system of schools, grade, State and Test Matches, each being closely interwoven with the other.

If a schoolboy shows promise he is coached and nursed to a first-class career. No six-day a week cricket for the Aussies, like our county system.

The basis of their cricket is grade games, a dozen or more of which may be going on at once on first-class enclosures in Sydney alone any week-end. The Test stars take part in those matches as a matter of course. So an up-and-coming bowler gets a chance of testing his length and guile against the Millers and Morris. No club batsman in England gets a chance of showing his prowess and improving his game against the Bedders and Wrights.

The likelihood of his ever doing so is exactly nil, for if county cricket clubs are to survive there must always be six days a week cricket to bolster their finances. Whether the county system is ever scrapped and substituted with a League scheme is quite another question—and one that will never arise if I know my MCC and county clubs aright.

Referees Can't Be Called "Gooks"

Stuttgart, Germany, Dec. 18.

A player on the Wuertemberg-Baden soccer team has been suspended for two weeks. He called the referee a "North Korean."—United Press.

BRISTOL ROVERS WIN CUP TIE

London, Dec. 18.

Bristol Rovers beat Gillingham 2-1 in a second round replay of the Football Association Cup competition at Tottenham Hotspurs' ground today.

Rovers are at home to Aldershot in the third round.—Reuter.

THE GAMBOLS



The Churchill Story: 6th Instalment BOERS OFFER £25: DEAD OR ALIVE

WINSTON CHURCHILL'S variety of hats have been a cartoonists' joy for half-a-century.

There are several theories about how it all started but there is some evidence that the first really odd piece of headgear he wore was a Dutch clergyman's hat, when, four weeks after he was captured, he escaped from the Boers.

This dramatic escape has not been dimmed by the great escapes of two world wars. He has told the full details in his long and enthralling account of his first 30 years, which Messrs Odhams publish under the title, "My Early Life," from which I have already quoted Churchill's own story of the cavalry charge at the Battle of Omdurman.

Ten-Foot Fence

ELEMENTS in it were so daring and so phenomenally lucky that few fiction-writers would attempt to use them if they wanted a story to sound plausible.

The prison camp at Pretoria was 300 miles from the nearest friendly territory—Portuguese East Africa. Churchill knew no Dutch or Kaffir.

The camp was surrounded by a brilliantly-lit quadrangle and a ten-foot fence patrolled by armed sentries.

First plan, to make the break with two fellow prisoners, failed. Then Churchill, with four slabs of chocolate and £75 in gold in his pocket, heaved himself over the fence.

A Free Man

HE passed within fifteen yards of one sentry who was lighting a cigarette and within five yards of another who stared at him uncomprehendingly, and walked into the town a free man. Audacity and simplicity had succeeded.

But for how long? He had no map and no compass. Very soon the Boers had a description of him widely circulated and a reward for his capture "dead or alive."

If Churchill had known of this at the time it would possibly have ruined his morale, for neither his description nor the size of the reward could be considered flattering to a veteran of four campaigns and author of three books.

The reward was £25.

The Description

THE description was: "Englishman, 25 years old, about 5ft 8ins tall, indifferent build, walks with a forward stoop, pale appearance, red-brown hair, small and hardly noticeable moustache, talks through his nose and cannot pronounce the letter S properly."

But Churchill knew nothing of this. He walked through the night, read his direction by the stars and made detours round any possible picket when he came to places like bridges.

Then he hit a railway line. He swung himself on to the couplings of a goods train as it clanked past him. He clambered

By Colin Frame

into a truck. He burrowed into some coal sacks and went to sleep.

He left the train before dawn, swinging off acrobatically while it was travelling at a fair speed, but the ache was taken from his bruises as he watched the line run on into the sunrise. For he wanted to go east.

That day he lay low in a grove. At night he returned to the railway, but no train came along.

He set off on foot along the line, skirting bridges and wading streams. He stumbled on almost exhausted.

He moved towards some buildings and found he was at a coal mine.

Falteringly he walked to the door of a small stone house. He beat on it with his fist.

His Lucky Star

A MAN opened it to whom he told a lame tale of falling off a train while sky-larking with other Boers.

The man heard him out in silence, then invited him in. He locked the door and Churchill feared the worst.

Then—"Thank God you have come here," said the mine manager.

"This is the only house for twenty miles where you would not have been handed over. But we are all British here and we will see you through."

Time and again in the Churchill story appear signs that he was born under a lucky star—the boyhood fall which might have broken his neck, the Pathan tribesman with uplifted sword, the Cuban rifleman and the Boers potting at him by the train, German machine-guns in one war and their bombs in another.

But in this long and adventurous story his star has shone never so brightly as at that incredible moment when Churchill picked one house out of those scattered on the veldt and found it to be the ace of trumps.

Mine Hideout

MR DEWSNAP, of Oldham, the Lancashire town that had turned Winston Churchill down when he first essayed an election, risked his life when he hid him in the depths of the mine.

So did the manager, John Howard, and two Scottish miners who helped to work it.

But—"They'll vote for you next time," said Mr Dewsnap, as he lowered the man the Boers sought into the blackness where white rats with pink eyes kept him company.

Several people have been churlish enough to throw doubt on parts of the tale of Churchill's escape from the Boers.

One took the trouble to go to the bottom of this mine. And, for the sake of the record, he reported that, despite his previous doubts, the rats in that Transvaal coal mine did indeed have white bodies and pink eyes.

Churchill was in the mine two days and two nights and therefore had a good opportunity to discover their colour.

For five days, spent walking on the veldt in darkness and then sleeping behind packing cases, he plotted with his new-found friends the method of escape.

Meanwhile successive cables whipped the British public up to the highest pitch of excitement they had known in a war that had so far been unfortunate and dreary.

Reports of his escape flowed in. So did reports that it was quite impossible for him to wriggle through the Boer net.

And, more ominously, there was a report that the minute he was recaptured he would be shot.

Read "Kidnapped"

MEANWHILE, Churchill lay behind the packing cases reading Stevenson's "Kidnapped."

One week from the moment he had climbed the fence at Pretoria he climbed into a goods truck stuffed with bales of wool bound for Lourenco Marques in Mozambique.

It was a 16-hour journey. But Mr Dewsnap and company were taking no chances.

With Lancashire appreciation of the inner man they had provided two roast chickens, slices of meat, a loaf, a melon, and three bottles of cold tea to bear him company.

To this day Churchill can remember much as a porter shouts them, the names of the stations along that perilous route—Witbank, Middleburg, Bergendal, Belfast, and so on to Komati Port.

At last it was over. The frontier was passed.

"I pushed my head out of the tarpaulin and sang and shouted and crowed at the top of my voice."

"Indeed, I was so carried away by thankfulness and delight that I fired my revolver two or three times in the air," wrote Churchill in "My Early Life."

Told To "Be Off"

DIRTY and dishevelled, he slipped over the side of the truck and sauntered across the goods yard to the British Consulate in Lourenco Marques.

"Be off. The Consul cannot see you to-day," announced the secretary.

But Winston Churchill had not come all this way for such treatment. He roared and ranted so loudly that the Consul himself looked out of the window and inquired what it was all about.

"From that moment," wrote Churchill, "every resource of hospitality and welcome was at my disposal."

That is a Churchillian understatement.

It was roses, roses all the way. At Durban he was almost torn to pieces by a delirious crowd. Back in England they introduced a music-hall song about him.

The Army Again

BUT Churchill went straight into the Army again and sent a graphic message to his paper, the "Morning Post," in which he prophesied that more vigorous action was needed to defeat the Boers.

"Are the gentlemen of England all fox hunting?" he cried.

Some of them were stung into cabling back from their London club. "Best friends here hope you will not continue making further ass of yourself."

Churchill joined an irregular force, the South African Light Horse, because it had finally been decided that no man could be a soldier and a newspaper correspondent at the same time.

He was at Spion Kop and at the relief of Ladysmith. He was with his younger brother Jack when he was wounded in the leg.

Once more he risked the firing squad when, carrying a message from Sir Ian Hamilton to Lord Roberts and in an attempt to hurry his reports to his paper, he put on civilian clothes and cycled coolly and deliberately right through Johannesburg, then still in Boer hands.

But his narrowest squeak was at a place called Dewetsdorp.

Accompanied by Montmorency's Scouts he had galloped to a small hill which was suddenly found to be in Boer possession. Bullets frightened his horse so that it broke away. The scouts retreated.

Chased By Bullets

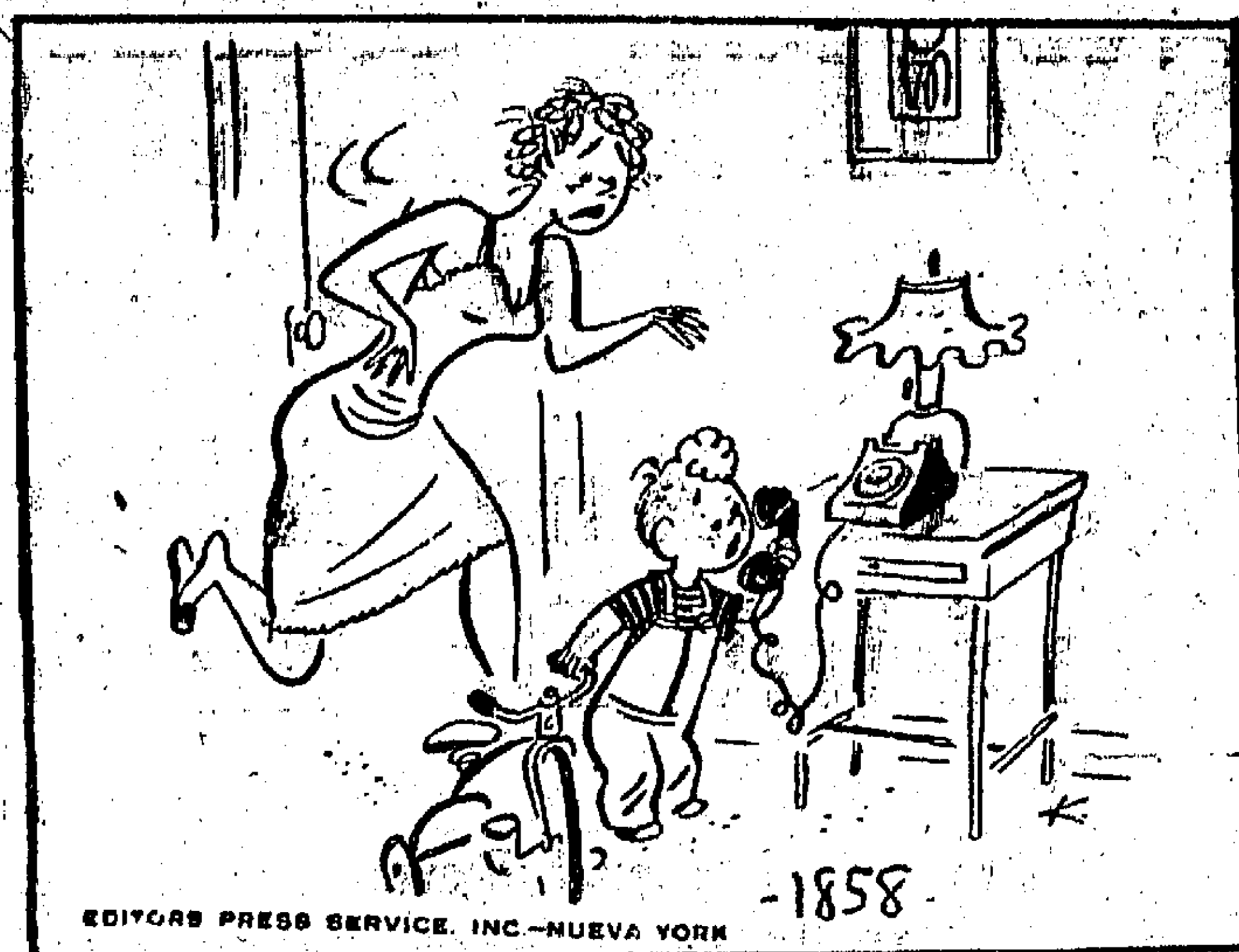
ON foot, a mile from any cover and but a few hundred yards from the Boers, Churchill turned and ran for the second time in this war.

Up came a mounted scout. "Give me a stirrup," yelled Churchill. In a second he had swung himself behind the trooper to make, chased by bullets, an escape of which any Wild Western film producer would be proud.

"Oh, my poor horse," groaned the trooper as the beast was hit but galloped on.

"Never mind, you've saved my life," comforted the figure PM.

But Trooper Roberts, who got a DCM for this exploit, thought this poor recompense inadequate. "Ah, it's the horse that's doing the work," he said.



"You must have the wrong number. I don't have a beautiful sister."

FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

Wage Increases Given Spanish Civil Service

Madrid, Dec. 18.

The Government's Council of Ministers ended a two-day session today by adopting a number of decrees, including one providing a general wage increase for Government employees.

Wage rises will range from 20 to 40 percent and employees will receive other benefits, notably a permanent Christmas bonus.

The Council also imposed two heavy fines on industrial firms for tax law violations.

The Holding Company of Sofia was fined 3,000,000 pesetas and ordered to cease manufacturing fertiliser in its ammonium sulphate plant.

A 1,000,000-peseta fine was imposed on a flour mill and supplies and other equipment ordered seized.

It was disclosed that Generalissimo Franco gave the Ministers a report on the international situation.

No decisions were reported to have been taken in the field of foreign relations.—United Press.

New York, Dec. 18.

Prices in the metal market here closed today unchanged with the following exceptions:—

Tin, Grade A (99.80 per cent or higher) New York, per lb. 146.—United Press.

STANDARD BRIDGE

By M. Harrison-Gray

Dealer: South
Game: all

N
Q 4
10 8 7 3
8 6 5
J 9 7 2

W. E. 8 6
Q 9 5 2
K 9 3
A K 8 4

S.
K J 10 9 5 3
A K J 6 4
A Q

South opens Two Spades. North would pass a One-bid out he must now bid Two No Trumps. South rebids Three Hearts. North can drop the bidding, but he has some useful values and raises to Four Hearts. As the cards lie, East-West can make Five Clubs.

West leads ♠ K. South ruff and plays ♠ K, but cannot continue trumps when East shows out; he leads a Spade to East's ♠ A. A Club return is ruffed and South plays out his Spades. If West ruffs with ♠ 8 dummy over-ruffs. South returns to his hand with ♠ A and continues Spades discarding dummy's Diamonds. The ♠ 8 is caught by a ruff in West's hand. East's ♠ A Diamond return by East at trick four prevents the overtake.

SLOW PACE IN GRAIN TRADING

Chicago, Dec. 18.

Trading moved at a relatively slow pace throughout the session with profit-taking causing a reaction from top prices in all pits. However, with the exception of March oats, all deliveries of grain hit new ground for the crop year. Trade in general was featured by a noticeable lack of pressure. Commission houses were on the buying side most of the day.

Wheat futures closed 1-3/4 to 3-1/4 cents higher, corn was 1-1/2 to 2-3/4 higher, oats 5/8 to 3 cents higher, rye 4-3/4 to 5-1/2 higher and soybeans 4-5/8 to 5-1/8 higher.

Prices closed today as follows:—

Wheat—price per bushel	
Spot	2.43 1/2
December	2.42 1/2 - 3/4
March (1951)	2.48 1/2 - 3/4
May	2.45 1/2 - 3/4
July	2.41 1/2 - 3/4
Corn	
Spot	1.75 1/4
December	1.71 1/4 - 3/4
March (1951)	1.71
May	1.71 1/2 - 3/4
July	1.71 1/2
Rye	
December	1.64 1/2
May (1951)	1.71 1/2
Oats	
December	99 1/2
March (1951)	98 1/2 - 5/8
NEW YORK FLOUR—per 200 lb. sack, \$13.00.	

—United Press.

London Tin Market

London, Dec. 18.

The tin market was quiet and steady this morning. Prices closed today at the end of the official morning session as follows:—

Spot tin, tapered	1,200
Spot tin, tapered	1,200
Three months' tin, tapered	1,200
Three months' tin, tapered	1,200

JEST A MINUTE!

By GEOFFREY EVANS



"What a time it is!—even the post has stopped!"

SWIFT BRUSSELS AGREEMENT

Eisenhower To Be Supreme Commander Of Atlantic Army

Power And Authority Also Decided By Treaty Powers

Brussels, Dec. 18.

The Foreign and Defence Ministers of the 12 Atlantic Pact nations meeting here today reached complete agreement on the two items of their agenda so far tackled, conference quarters stated.

These two points were: (1) German participation in the defence of the West and the integrated European army; (2) The appointment of General Dwight Eisenhower as Supreme Commander.

They also agreed on the powers and authority he will require. The Defence Committee at a four-hour meeting formally approved these questions.

The Foreign and Defence Ministers, meeting later, reviewed the items in complete agreement.

Formal approval of both sections of the agenda will be recorded early tomorrow by the Foreign and Defence Ministers, again meeting in joint session, it was understood.

General Eisenhower's appointment as Supreme Commander, usually reliable quarters here thought tonight, would also be announced tomorrow.

The question of German participation in the Atlantic force and its American commander were still awaiting "final formalities" by the Atlantic Council of Foreign Ministers.

The Defence Ministers, meeting separately this morning, were understood in usually well-informed quarters to have approved the plan worked out last week in London by the Deputies' Council and Military Committee of the Atlantic Pact organisation.

The plan is a compromise by which Germans would be organised in fighting groups of 5,000 to 6,000.

FINAL DECISION

A spokesman of the North Atlantic Treaty organisation indicated that the final decision to appoint a Supreme Commander and approve recruitment for an integrated European Army, including German fighting units, will be taken when the Foreign and Defence Ministers meet tomorrow morning.

"I very much doubt whether there will be any change whatsoever in the plan already worked out in London," he said. "I consider that unlikely."

On behalf of the North Atlantic Council, the Committee of Deputies later issued the following brief communiqué: "The Council and their Defence Committee met and made constant progress on their agenda, which they hope to complete tomorrow. They will then issue a communiqué."

BIG THREE TALKS

The spokesman also said that the Big Three Foreign Ministers—Mr Ernest Bevin of Britain, Mr Dean Acheson of the United States and M. Robert Schuman of France—will meet separately tomorrow afternoon and probably tomorrow night.

They will be meeting as occupying powers in Germany to discuss the procedure for transmitting to the West German Government the recommendation of the North Atlantic Treaty organisation regarding German participation.

The delegations attending were from the following countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the United States, France, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Britain.

Opening the session, the Belgian Foreign Minister, M. Paul Van Zeeland, said: "The hour is exceptionally grave. The decision, which will be taken as

a result of these discussions, may have a vital effect on the future of the free world.

"It is for us to lose no time in building up by our common efforts the force under the protection of which our peoples will once more be able to follow their peaceful callings."

Mr Ernest Bevin, of Britain, was one of the first to arrive. He looked tired and haggard as he left his car.

A lift, which had been arranged for Mr Bevin, broke down just before his arrival. Mr Bevin walked up the stairs and showed no distress.

ADEQUATE STRENGTH

Mr Frank Pace, the United States Secretary of the Army, gave this pledge to the Defence Ministers of the 12 North Atlantic Pact nations today: "We have joined with you in a solemn arrangement for mutual protection and I assure you that we shall keep faith with our obligations."

Mr Pace was presiding at the opening three-hour session of the two-day discussions to set up an integrated West European Army.

He was confident, Mr. Pace said, that they would achieve "adequate strength" to protect the peace of the world.

(Mr Dean Acheson, the US Secretary of State, was not present as his plane had been forced down by bad weather in Paris).

Mr Pace said: "We have been meeting now over a period of four months and can show some real progress in strengthening our military and economic position to withstand a Communist assault on Western Europe, but we are far from ready even now."

"We must now speed up our efforts and translate our plans into reality as rapidly and as effectively as possible."

STRONG HINT

"If the American Government, the Congress and the American people are to support aid to the defence effort of the European countries they must be fully convinced that each of these countries is doing all it can do."

"The American people already have stepped up their preparedness and plan for even greater sacrifices in the next year to strengthen their own position and to help strengthen the position of their partners in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation."

Mr Pace added: "We are confident that every member nation will approach the problem of our mutual defence with a similar spirit of determination and sacrifice and a similar readiness and eagerness to contribute a full share to the defence of Western Europe."

"This is the only way we can achieve ultimate success."

SOVIET NOTES

The Atlantic Council of Foreign Ministers was expected to tackle the situation created by Russia's weekend notes to Britain and France on German rearmament.

This was expected to come up before the virtually routine approval of the Spofford Plan for including German units in the Atlantic Army.

The joint session had, in any case, been expected to open with a report from the US Secretary of State, Mr Dean Acheson, on the conclusions reached in the recent Washington talks on Western rearmament.

Several delegations wished to speak on their attitude towards the weekend Soviet move, it was understood in usually well-informed quarters here.

Britain was believed to support a proposal expected to be laid before the Ministers.

This was an authorisation of discussions on the Spofford Plan between the Western German Government and the Allied High Commissioners in Germany.

DOOR OPEN

Supporters of this proposal urged that it would leave the door open for Russia to make a cooperative move before any German units were formed. There would be no danger of this happening unless:

1.—The West German Government were willing to accept the Spofford Plan as it stands and without delay, and

2.—The Russians proved completely unwilling to talk cooperatively with the West about Germany.

The proposal might thus reconcile the French view that no chance of reaching an understanding with Russia should be missed and that of the Americans, who are understood to be convinced that no more time should be lost in making the Atlantic Pact a reality.—Reuter.

Fate Of Crowded Hongkong

(Continued from Page 1)

Other exporters, anticipating some such situation, began looking for other markets earlier this year. Ships already on their way to Hongkong will not be ordered back.

MAMMOTH JOB

The export control division is facing the mammoth job of reviewing all applications which have piled up since Dec. 3. Nothing can be done about any of them until the inter-departmental committee gives the go-ahead. Licence applications consist of two long pages calling for all manner of details (to assist the applicant, the Department issues three pages of minute instructions). The application goes first to the licensing officer. It takes about a month to pass over his desk. It then goes to other officials and, if difficult, to Mr Burton. It may then be referred to the inter-departmental committee and finally to the Secretary of Commerce.

If rejected there it may be appealed to a three-man Appeals Board.

This was the procedure followed before the new regulation went into effect. It is now immeasurably more involved.

The Department of Commerce tonight declined to offer any estimate of how long it might take now for an application to go "through the works."



Pity the poor "frog" in this little game. He does all the back-bending and never gets the chance to see smiling Renee Lester, of Streatham, sailing through the air at the Roehampton swimming pool.

Sharp Protest Over Attack On Acheson

Washington, Dec. 18.

Senator William Fulbright (Democrat) accused the Republicans today of resorting to "character assassination" in an attempt to change American foreign policy. He called on them to bring forth a "constructive programme" instead.

Mr Fulbright protested, in a Senate speech, against action by Republican Senators and Representatives in formally demanding the replacement of Mr Dean Acheson, Secretary of State. The action "will largely, if not completely, destroy his influence and consequently our nation's influence" at the Brussels conference on European defence.

Senator Owen Brewster (Republican) protested that the Republicans had shown "considerable moderation." He said the Republicans had waited for a month after the election, in the belief that the President would interpret the results as a mandate to dismiss Mr Acheson.

Senator William Langer accused his Republican colleagues of "sticking a knife" in Mr Acheson's back. He said the Republicans as well as the Democrats had supported policies which had culminated in a crisis.

"Acheson is no more guilty than some of the very Republicans who stuck a knife in his back last week," he said.

Senator Langer, a harsh critic of administration conduct of foreign affairs, said the Republicans had made "some of

their most eloquent speeches" on behalf of administration policies.

"Now, when they are face to face with a crisis, they seek to blame Acheson."—United Press.

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NOTICE

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